Overcharging on dexamethasone formulations

1360. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of Dexamethasone formulations fixed by the Government during the period 1981-82;

(b) what are the names of formulators of Dexamethasone;

(c) whether it is a fact that the formulators of Dexamethasone are overcharging the prices since then;

(d) what is the price charged by each since then and what action has been taken against each; and

(e) what is the amount overcharged by each company?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e) The requisite information to the extent available is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotional avenues for the Pharmacists

1361. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the promotional avenues for the Pharmacists working under the Central Government and the U.T. Administration;

(b) whether Fourth Pay Commission have recommended for promotional avenues for Pharmacists;

(c) what are the recommendations of National Convention of Pharmacists held in New Delhi in March, 1990; and

(d) what action Government have taken to implement the recommendations of Pay Commission and Pharmacists' Convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Ill effects on passive smokers

1362. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cancer can be caused even to a passive smoker who accidentally inhales smoke exhausted by other smokers;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider banning smoking in Government offices and public places to begin with; and

(c) what other steps Government contemplate to eradicate this hazard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to protect the non-smoking public, from the hazards of passive smoking instructions have been issued to prohibit tobacco smoking to start with, in a few selected places, namely, hospitals, dispensaries and other health care establishments, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic airflights, airconditioned chaircars and air-conditioned sleeper coaches in trains, uburban trains and air-conditioned buses. An anti-smoking legislation is also under consideration of the Government.